



Royal College of  
Obstetricians &  
Gynaecologists



September 2020

Dear Colleague

### **Update on revisions to maternal and perinatal reporting requirements**

Optimising the safety of services remains our collective priority as we reinstate services during the current phase of the COVID-19 response. In recognition of the pressure on the NHS and maternity services, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, MBRRACE-UK, NHS Resolution and the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) have been working together to reduce the obligation on Trusts to report cases that meet the Each Baby Counts (EBC) criteria and to align processes where possible.

From 1 April 2020, it became no longer necessary for trusts to report Early Notification (EN) cases to NHS Resolution; this decision has been reviewed in Sept 2020 and the decision has been made to extend the current reporting arrangement until March 2021. However, it is still important to report all cases that meet the EN criteria to HSIB during this time. HSIB will triage all cases and prioritise those where there is evidence of harm (brain injury) to the baby and will share these cases directly with NHS Resolution.

One of the EN team may contact you directly where one of these cases is received from HSIB to request more details, if required. It is important that we are able to progress these cases where possible to ensure that parents are provided with early support and explanations as soon as possible. Openness, early apologies and principles of candour remain very important for Trusts to continue during this time.

Reporting to MBRRACE-UK will follow the existing [guidance](#) issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April to continue all maternal and perinatal mortality notifications. Notification of maternal deaths of women with a positive test for COVID-19 infection is a priority as is notification of perinatal deaths where the baby and/or mother was COVID-19 positive.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020 the Each Baby Counts (EBC) programme team was not actively following up any reporting or reviewing of 2018 cases. Upon review in August 2020, the Each Baby Counts programme has now reinstated follow ups on 2018 cases. Any babies who fit the EBC criteria in England should be reported via HSIB, and this will be the process for all cases moving forward.

HSIB and NHS Resolution will continue to work collaboratively in relation to care concerns identified during this time and will liaise closely with Care Quality Commission (CQC) and NHS England/Improvement to coordinate any further follow up actions needed.

We would like to thank you for all your hard work and efforts, both with the ongoing current situation and in working towards achieving the highest standards of safety in maternity and neonatal services.

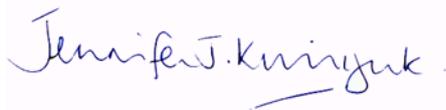
Yours sincerely,



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